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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

6 September 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : Comments on [ ] Dated 29 August 1962

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1. I believe the following comments are in order on the subject paper which was given to me by Dr. Scoville late last week.

a. The 23 July 1962 paper from Dr. Charyk entitled "Organization and Functions of the NRO" established in Paragraph 2 a. the premise that NRO is to be "established as an operating agency". From a purely technical point of view, I am uncertain as to the origin of the provision for NRO to be an operating agency. I do assume, however, that since we have not commented on the wisdom of this move that we are concurring by our silence.

b. In Paragraph 2 of Dr. Scoville's subject paper, the suggestion is made that "DD/R be designated as senior CIA representative reporting directly to DNRO". I am basically in agreement with anything that elevates the stature of the DD/R in the NRO organization, but I still feel that the proper spot for the DD/R is as Deputy Director of NRO. If it is not desired to make a frontal attack on this problem, however, we would agree with the proposal to establish AD/OSA as the Director of Program B.

c. In Paragraph 5 a. DD/R has suggested the word "that" be inserted before "NRP satellite effort". I would suggest enlarging this to read "that portion of the" before the words "NRP satellite effort".

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d. With regard to Paragraph 5 c. of the subject paper, we agree with DD/R but feel here that this paragraph might well be amplified for the benefit of all concerned in an effort to define what role the DCI and DD/R will play from a command sense over the Program Directors, since the technical management responsibility for all of the NRP has been assigned to the DNRO by the McCone/Gilpatric agreement.

e. According to the original McCone/Gilpatric agreement, the Agency was designated as "the executive agent for DNRO for those covert projects already under its management and such additional covert projects as are assigned to it by the Secretary of Defense and the DCI". Taken literally we have interpreted this to mean that the Agency will control IDEALIST, OXCART, CORONA, and ARGON. We have apparently departed from the original terms of the agreement to the extent that we do not disagree with that portion of the 23 July 1962 Charyk paper which assigns basic operations and communications to the NRO staff (Paragraph 2 j. (2)). It may be too late to quarrel with this decision, but by not commenting contrarily in the subject paper we will have finally abrogated the last vestige of control for the CORONA, ARGON, and LAYNARD efforts.

f. If we agree with DD/R's comment in Paragraph 5 c. of the subject paper wherein the statement is made that "the DCI and the DD/R must have a direct command responsibility over the programs assigned to CIA", then I question whether we can let this stand without commenting on Paragraph 8 of the 23 July paper which states "prior specific approval of the DNRO will be required for any matter of the NRO or NRP to be processed to higher authority". I personally feel that this ties Mr. McCone's hands to a degree inconsistent with his role not only in the community, but more particularly as senior action official on programs of primary concern to this Agency. At a minimum I would suggest substituting the word "coordinate" for the word "approval" in the paragraph in question.

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2. With the balance of the DD/R's paper we have no difference. However, at some point I think it would be useful for the DD/R to obtain a reading from the DCI concerning the Agency's desires and intent for downstream planning and inclusion in the satellite and aircraft reconnaissance program.



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